

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to recite structure which is clearly shown in the drawings, thereby obviating any question of new matter. This recitation is necessary to provide explicit antecedent basis for language in newly added claims.

Claims 9 and 12-16 stand rejected as anticipated by Canfield. To the extent that this rejection would be applied to claim 9 as presently amended, such rejection is traversed for the reasons following:

Canfield discloses a clutch having axially slideable pressure plates 13, 14 which engage a driven flange 11, and axially slideable friction discs 30 which engage an output shaft 16. Each disc 30 comprises a pair of carrier disks 40, 50 carrying respective friction linings 41, 51. Springs 32 are provided between each pair of disks 40, 50, and radial slots 60 are provided in each disc to improve flexibility in the axial and circumferential directions.

While Canfield was also applied against claim 16, this rejection is felt to be misplaced insofar as claim 16 recites a carrier *consisting of* a planar metal plate, whereas Canfield clearly discloses two plates 40, 50 having dish springs 32 therebetween. Likewise, since claim 9 has been amended to recite a carrier consisting of a single metal plate, claim 9 now distinguishes patentably from Canfield.

The Examiner states that the slots 60 inherently form fluid transport surfaces. Assuming arguendo that this is true, they are not designed to do so and therefore are not optimized for this purpose. That is, the slots 60 do not have circumferentially facing surfaces which are coextensive with the adjacent circumferentially facing surfaces of the friction linings 41, 51. As seen in Figure 3, the slots are only about 2/3 of the radial extent of the friction linings. This is because they are not

designed for the purpose of conveying fluid but for flexibility. Thus, the circumferentially facing surfaces in Canfield do not meet the limitations of claim 17.

It can also be seen in Figures 3 and 8 of Canfield that the circumferentially facing surfaces of the slots 60 stand proud of the adjacent circumferentially facing surfaces of the friction linings. Thus, these surfaces are not coplanar and the fluid conveying surfaces formed thereby are not planar, as recited in newly submitted claim 18.

Claims 9 and 12-16 stand alternatively rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Canfield in view of Schjolin. The latter discloses an internally toothed ring-like body and radially outward extending carrier segments separated by slots 48; each carrier segment carries two friction lining segments on each side.

While Schjolin discloses a carrier having a single plate, it cannot be obvious to substitute this for the dual plate of Schjolin, because that would defeat the very specific teaching of Schjolin. See MPEP 2143.01. Thus, claim 9 as presently amended (like claim 16) distinguishes patentably from the combination.

Claim 14 stood rejected as obvious over the combination, because Schjolin was said to show the outer contour of each friction lining segment conforming to the outer contour of the respective carrier segment. This cannot be the case, because Schjolin shows two friction linings on each side of each carrier, which only collectively conform to the outer contour of the carrier. Nevertheless, to further distinguish from this combination, applicant has amended claim 14 to recite each carrier segment carrying only two friction lining segments (Schjolin discloses four).

Finally, newly submitted claim 19 recites the web portions of the carrier segments, wherein each web portion has a circumferential width which is less than the carrier segments. This is

disclosed in Figures 2-5 and applies to embodiments having both inner and outer ring-like bodies. This feature is not suggested by any of the art of record.

The claims as amended and newly submitted being definite and patentably distinguishable from the art of record, withdrawal of the rejections and early allowance are solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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